

**REMARKS**

The Office has required that the present application be restricted, under 35 U.S.C. § § 121 and 372, to one of the following four groups of claims:

Group I: Claims 1-14 and 50 are drawn to a method of characterizing an analyte by matrix assisted laser desorption ionization (MALDI) mass spectrometry (A 1<sup>st</sup> first method employing a special technical feature).

Group II: Claims 15-24 and 51-63 are drawn to a method of measuring cleaved peptide fragments that are capped with a lysine reactive agent (A 2<sup>nd</sup> method that utilizes a special technical feature).

Group III: Claims 25-31, 38-42 and 64-68 are drawn to a labeled analyte-compound comprising D-M-L-A. (A 1<sup>st</sup> product used in analyte labeling – another special technical feature).

Group IV: Claims 32-37, 43-49 and 69-70 are drawn to a labeled analyte-compound comprising K-L-R and products comprising said K-L-R compound. (A 2<sup>nd</sup> product used in analyte labeling – another special technical feature).

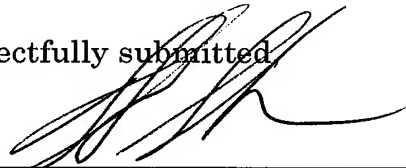
Applicants hereby elect the invention, without traverse, defined by the Examiner in Group II, claims 15-24 and 51-63, drawn to a method of measuring cleaved peptide fragments that are capped with a lysinc reactive agent (A 2<sup>nd</sup> method that utilizes a special technical).

This response is made without prejudice or disclaimer to any non-elected subject matter, and Applicants reserve the right to file one or more continuation and/or divisional applications directed to any non-elected subject matter.

If there are any questions regarding this response or the application in general, a telephone call to the undersigned would be appreciated since this should expedite the prosecution of the application for all concerned.

If necessary to effect a timely response, this paper should be considered as a petition for an Extension of Time sufficient to effect a timely response, and please charge any deficiency in fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 05-1323 (Docket #103895.B600304).

Respectfully submitted



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April 2, 2008

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